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| Application Number | 09/829,587 |
| Filing Date | April 9, 2001 |
| First Named Inventor | P. Laptsev |
| Art Unit | 1763 |
| Examiner Name | R. Zervigon |
| Attorney Docket Number | SPUTT-56141 |

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)

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Remarks

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

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| Firm or Individual name | ELLSWORTH R. ROSTON, ESQ., REG. NO. 16,310 FULWIDER PATTON LEE & UTECHT, LLP |
| Signature | <i>Ellsworth R. Roston</i> |
| Date | OCTOBER 24, 2003 |

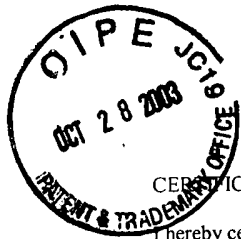
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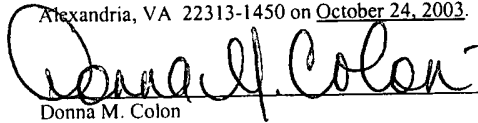
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Donna M. Colon

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of

Inventor: Laptev, P.

Serial No. 09/829,587

Filed: April 9, 2001

For: SYSTEM FOR, AND METHOD OF,
ETCHING A SURFACE ON A WAFER

Examiner: Zervigon, R.

Group Art Unit: 1763

Confirmation No.: 7932

Client ID/Matter No.: SPUTT-56141

Date: October 24, 2003

Los Angeles, California 90045

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
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AMENDMENT UNDER RULE 116

This Amendment is response to the Office Action of 07/11/03. Please amendment and reconsider the above-referenced application.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please change the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) In combination for etching an insulating layer in a wafer to present a clean and fresh surface on the insulating layer for deposition,
a conduit for molecules of an inert gas,